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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Chairman of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and has the honour to submit to him the attached text*, for circulation as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Adriano PARREIRA
Permanent Representative

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* The annex is reproduced as received, in the original language only.

ANNEX

PERMANENT MISSION OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
IN GENEVA

Through this letter, my delegation is reacting to the statement delivered, on the 17 April, by the italian delegation on behalf of the European Union for this 52nd Session of the Commission on Human Rights.

To affirm that difficulties may emerge during the implementation of a peace process, namely in Angola, is not only a singular evidence of an unnecessary tautological exercise. It is a deliberate try to manipulate concepts through the distortion of meaning, and for this reason is not an innocent exercise. To affirm that difficulties occure in an ongoing peace process in a country completely devastated by an unfair war imposed on the angolan people, is indeed bizarre and allow us to raise the most justified doubts about the seriousness of that text. Indeed, the statement made on behalf of the European Union is not a serious one, and we should simply ignore it if we did not consider it offensive for our dignity as a sovereign state.

I can assure that the Government of Angola allways did, and will continue to do its best to make sure that the peace process become successful. All efforts will be exhausted and all ressources have being used by our Authorities, to restitute to the angolan people the right to live in peace, a right which has been denied to us for the last thirty five years. We sincerely believe that UNITA is also doing its best to assure the irreversibility of the peace process.

Allow me please to ask a few questions: did the European Union exhausted all its ressources, and have done everything it could do to assure peace in Angola? Did any communitarian european country raise at that time its voice in favour of the angolan people during the recent liberation war against colonialism? Still, the right of the people to decide on their own future and destiny is a fundamental human right.

When the racist *appartheid* south-african army invaded our country, killing thousands of angolans, mostly of them defensless children and women, spreeding indiscriminately death all over, leaving behind millions of anti-personnel land mines, did any of the european communitarian countries, or the European Union itself, come to rescue all those million of innocents?

Did in those days any european country defend in this Commission the rights of the angolan people to life? Not a single one, allthough the right to life is a fundamental human right, the one which give sense to everything we are doing here.

Where could one find those who now pretend to be the Palatine of human rights? In no place, Honourable Delegates. They remained dead silent.

How much did European Union contribute to the reconstruction of Angola? I am obliged to inform you that my country is still expecting that the European Union fullfills the promises launched in Brussels last year, a situation which is certainly not contributing for the peace process implementation, neither for the prevention of the so called "still persisting difficulties", as the statement says. If during all these years we were to wait for the European Union to come and help the angolan Government to defend the right of our people to life, believe me, the angolans would all be dead by now.

My delegation vehemently rejects the arrogancy and paternalism implicit in the *déjà vu* statement of the representant of Italy on behalf of the European Union. We definitively refuse to be trialed by anyone. This fastidious and redundant persistency will not contribute to the exercise of the noble principle of mutual respect among sovereign states.

Let me assure you that in what concerns the immediate defense of the fundamental rights of the angolan people, the angolan Government will never compromise. The implementation, promotion and safeguard of human rights is the greatest priority for the angolan Authorities.
Let all nations together engage, once for ever, in the dissipation of all attempts of vulgarity and banalizatuion of this *forum* and coordinate our efforts to avoid, by all means, the futile exercise of confrontation. Let us in stead, definitively embrace a positive and sustainable meaningsfull approach to human rights based on dialogue, on continued negotiation, genuine consultation and consensus building.

Geneva, 18 April 1996

Adriano Parreira

Professor Dr. Adriano Parreira
Ambassador Permanent Representative